

DELMAS SWEARS THAT THAW IS SANE

Says Prisoner Has Materially Aided Him In Conducting Case.

NEGRO IN STATION CLOSELY GUARDED

TERRIBLE FIRE RAGES IN PATRICK

Thirty Farm-Houses Have Been
Already Destroyed and Many
Lives Are Endangered.

BLAZING WAVES UNCHECKED

Efforts of Farmers to Control
Fire Vain—Cottages at Patrick
Springs Burn.

DANVILLE, VA., March 23.—A tremendous forest fire is sweeping the county of Patrick, and heavy damage to property has already resulted and the lives of many are endangered.

The fire started Friday night near Stuart, the county seat of Patrick and the terminus of the Danville and Western Railroad, and has been raging ever since. Latest reports are that the conflagration is unchecked, though a large number of citizens and farmers

are engaged in an effort to stop its progress.

From Stuart the fire has spread southeast in the direction of Danville. To-night it had reached Critz, fifteen or twenty miles from where it started. The width of the conflagration is about the same.

About thirty farmhouses have been burned and the occupants rendered homeless. At Patrick Springs, a summer resort, four cottages located several hundred yards from the main hotel were burned. The hotel stands in a valley, with woods on both sides. It is in an open space, however, and escaped destruction. The springs are about two miles from Shuff, the railroad station, and several miles beyond

The dwelling-house of W. N. Martin, a prominent citizen, was destroyed, together with its contents.

The fire started on the plantation of the Stuart Orchard Company, which had many acres of apple and peach trees. All of the trees were burned.

Patrick county is a mountainous country about sixty miles southwest of Danville, and is noted for its timber lands, and as a fine fruit-growing

section. The fire is confined largely to "Bull" and "No Business" Mountains. The first named mountain was burned over several years ago. "No Business" Mountain is a great timber land and the loss here will be heavy. In the area of about fifteen by six miles already swept, only a few farmhouses have escaped destruction.

To-night it is impossible to communicate with any of the points along the path of the fire. The first news

was brought here by the passengers of a train arriving here this afternoon. News trains run on the Danville and Western Saturday night or Sunday, hence the telegraph offices are closed.

CHIEF BRINKLEY KILLS SIXTH MAN

**Shoots Negro Through Heart Who
Was About to Kill Him.
Desperate Fight.**

He raised his pistol arm, but Brinkley fired first, his ball piercing the heart. Epes reeled, threw away the revolver, and was in the act of shuffling the shotgun to his right hand, when Brinkley fired again, and missed. Brinkley closed his

A coroner's jury, assembled in the county hall to-night, held Brinkley blameless, but he was put under \$1,000 bond for appearance at a preliminary hearing Monday afternoon. Brinkley asked that ball be not made too small.

Epes had just had a difficulty with Edwin Davis, a freight clerk at the Atlantic Coast Line Station, and had gone home and armed himself, when Brinkley was called. Chief Brinkley said after the inquest that Epes was the state's man, and killed in self-defense. Five other witnesses. He killed a white

The Negro was caught at about 4:30 o'clock Friday afternoon, as he was on his way to Baltimore, over the York River route. He had already bought his ticket, but having some leisure time he strolled about the town, and was captured by Sergeant McCann and Officer Roberts, of the local force. They had been notified by the chief of police at Richmond of the alleged assault, and were on the lookout for the man. He answered the description fully, and the two officers had little trouble in identifying him. As soon as he was placed in the car, the officers here were lo-

If the man is shown to have been the one who committed the two crimes at Church Hill, Judge Witt will call a special grand jury, as he did in the Elfe case, and the matter will be disposed of with rapidity.

Higgins Positive.

None of the ladies or children were called to identify the negro last night.

returning to Richmond Tuesday morning, April 2d. By special and urgent request she has consented to play a matinee Tuesday in addition to the night performance.

**CONGREGATION GIVES
\$100 FOR CHINESE FUNERAL**

At the Broad Street Methodist Church last Sunday morning the congregation contributed \$100 to the Chinese funeral fund. A check for the amount was received by The Times Dispatch last night from Mr. G.

of understanding the nature of the proceedings against him, and is a subject for a commission in lunacy rather than for a jury which holds only the power of liberty or death. Supplementing their own unanimous opinion that Thaw does not understand the nature of the proceedings against him and daily advises him intelligently with his counsel, the law

The principal affidavit made in Thaw's behalf is signed by Delphin M. Delmas, his leading counsel. Mr. Delmas attaches to his personal statement a series of notes, and a number of letters and notes he has received from Thaw during the progress of the trial. These writings of the defendant, Mr. Delmas declares, clearly indicate his grasp of the proceedings and have contained from time to time valuable assistance as to the course of the defense. Mr.

Justice Fitzgerald will indicate the fact to the opposing counsel on Monday if he desires a further hearing.

"And I do, upon my oath, solemnly state that during all of his trial, Harry K. Thaw has been and is capable

is the note from Thaw appointing him chief counsel the second day of the defense. It will be remembered that the first day of Thaw's defense was decidedly disastrous to his case. Mr. Delmas declared that Thaw wrote to him as follows:

Letter to Delmas.

"Dear Mr. Delmas,—On the 6th of the month, at the request of my then sen-

With reference to the proposed testimony of the artist, Carroll Beckwith Thaw wrote to Mr. Lincoln B. Smith: "I insist that my counsel produce Mr. Beckwith to testify regarding what he told me in the fall of 1919. In 1904, 1905 and 1906 concerning Mr. H. K. Thaw's character and goodness in the year 1901, and the change to

Sane Instructions.
Under date of February 6th, this writer Mr. Delmas as follows:
"Not as principal, but as husband must hear your notes for my wife's testimony, but I shall permit nothing but the truth and wish to prevent any unintentional misrepresentation. Today I am in the state of a housekeeper, who was pleased to state straight and safe on facts—perjury himself in a very natural or studied manner. This grieves me and fore-